

Message Text

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42

ACTION SS-25

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TAGS: PARM

SUBJECT: AMBASSADOR JOHNSON'S STATEMENT OF 13 FEB 76

THE FOLLOWING IS STATEMENT DELIVERED BY AMBASSADOR JOHNSON
AT THE SALT TWO MEETING OF FEBRUARY 13, 1976.

STATEMENT BY AMBASSADOR JOHNSON

FEBRUARY 13, 1976

MR. MINISTER:

ON FEBRUARY 6, 1976, THE U.S. DELEGATION PROPOSED A NEW
DEFINITION OF THE TERM THROW-WEIGHT. THIS TERM IS AN IMPORTANT
ELEMENT IN THE DEFINITION OF A HEAVY ICBM CONTAINED IN PARAGRAPH
7 OF ARTICLE II OF THE JOINT DRAFT TEXT, A PROVISION ON WHICH
THE TWO DELEGATIONS HAVE AGREED IN SUBSTANCE. IT IS ALSO, AS
YOU KNOW, AN EQUALLY IMPORTANT ELEMENT IN THE U.S. PROPOSAL
FOR PARAGRAPH 7 OF ARTICLE IV.

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THEREFORE, MR. MINISTER, TODAY I WANT TO DISCUSS WITH YOU AND SET FORTH THE RATIONALE BEHIND THE DEFINITION OF THROW-WEIGHT WHICH I PROPOSED ON FEBRUARY 6. THE TEXT OF THAT DEFINITION READS AS FOLLOWS:

"THE THROW-WEIGHT OF A BALLISTIC MISSILE IS THE SUM OF THE WEIGHT OF: (1) ITS REENTRY VEHICLE OR VEHICLES, (2) ITS PENETRATION AIDS, AND (3) ANY BUSES OR OTHER DEVICES IT HAS FOR PROPULSION, GUIDANCE, CONTROL, OR RELEASE WHICH CAN CAUSE MULTIPLE REENTRY VEHICLES OR PENETRATION AIDS TO REENTER THE ATMOSPHERE AT DIFFERENT LOCATIONS OR TIMES."

THE CONCEPT BEHIND THIS DEFINITION IS THAT AN ICBM CONSISTS BASICALLY OF TWO PARTS. ONE PART, WHICH MIGHT BE CALLED THE "USEFUL" PART, CONTAINS THE WARHEAD OR WARHEADS, TOGETHER WITH OTHER COMPONENTS WHICH, FOR EXAMPLE, PERMIT THE WARHEADS TO SURVIVE REENTRY, ASSIST IN THE PENETRATION OF DEFENSES, AND INCREASE THE NUMBER OF TARGETS WHICH CAN BE ATTACKED. THE WEIGHT OF THIS PART IS WHAT THE U.S. CALLS THROW-WEIGHT. THE OTHER PART OF AN ICBM IS THAT PART WHICH PLACES WHAT MIGHT BE CALLED THE "USEFUL" PART ON A BALLISTIC TRAJECTORY TOWARD THE TARGET. THIS SECOND PART IS COMMONLY REFERRED TO AS THE BOOSTER.

THE U.S. DEFINITION OF THROW-WEIGHT IS FORMULATED SO AS TO ESTABLISH PRECISELY THE COMPONENTS THE TOTAL WEIGHT OF WHICH CONSTITUTES THROW-WEIGHT. WE HAVE SOUGHT TO DO THIS IN A WAY WHICH WILL NOT BE UNNECESSARILY COMPLEX. THE DEFINITION SPECIFIES THE THREE TYPES OF COMPONENTS WHICH MAKE UP THROW-WEIGHT:

(1) THE REENTRY VEHICLE, OR, IN THE CASE OF ICBMS EQUIPPED WITH MRV OR MIRV SYSTEMS, THE REENTRY VEHICLES, EACH OF WHICH WOULD CONTAIN AN EXPLOSIVE DEVICE.

(2) OBJECTS, FOR EXAMPLE DECOYS, WHICH WOULD NOT CONTAIN EXPLOSIVE DEVICES BUT WHICH WOULD ASSIST THE REENTRY VEHICLES IN PENETRATING DEFENSES.

(3) OTHER COMPONENTS WHICH CAN CAUSE INDIVIDUAL REENTRY VEHICLES OR PENETRATION AIDS TO ACQUIRE DIFFERENT TRAJECTORIES, SO AS TO REENTER THE ATMOSPHERE AT DIFFERENT LOCATIONS OR
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TIMES. THESE WOULD INCLUDE, FOR EXAMPLE, WHAT THE U.S. CALLS A POSTBOOST VEHICLE OR BUS. THE WEIGHT OF THESE AND OTHER SUCH MECHANISMS - WHICH MAY INCLUDE DEVICES FOR PROPULSION (INCLUDING PROPELLANTS), GUIDANCE, CONTROL, AND RELEASE - WOULD BE CONSIDERED PART OF THE THROW-WEIGHT IRRESPECTIVE OF WHERE THEY WERE LOCATED ON THE MISSILE.

MR. MINISTER, I HOPE THAT THIS EXPOSITION WILL ASSIST THE

SOVIET DELEGATION IN ITS CONSIDERATION OF THE DEFINITION OF
THROW-WEIGHT WHICH WE HAVE PROPOSED. JOHNSON

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